

Mubarak had doubts about Baker plan

Cairo (R) — President Hosni Mubarak has said for the first time he has doubts about a U.S. plan for direct Israeli-Palestinian talks, according to an interview published Saturday. "There are points on which we agree with the Americans and others which we expressed reservations about," he said in the interview with Kuwait's Al Rai Al Assi daily carried by Egypt's Middle East News agency. Mubarak, whose country has played the main role in mediating between the U.S. and PLO on the five-point plan proposed by Secretary of State James Baker, gave no details of his reservations. Mubarak, who has urged the PLO to come up with a positive response to the Baker plan, also implied there was little alternative but to push ahead with U.S. proposal. "Dialogue is better than making statements... he who rejects dialogue does not have an alternative," he added. Israel has accepted the Baker plan with the key reservation that the PLO should be excluded from the talks. The PLO wants a final say in any negotiation to peace talks and has refused to endorse the Baker plan.

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Arar expects smooth sailing in Parliament

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Sulaiman Arar has said he expects no difficulties in running Parliament sessions or delay in the execution of projects because everybody wants to make achievements and work.

"The priorities of Parliament include matters related to economy, information, and public freedom. No such subjects have so far been presented before parliament for a final decision. I believe the most important subject in this regard will be economic," Arar added in an interview with Jordan Television.

On the role of press during the election campaign, Arar said: "The press did not completely abide by neutrality during and after the election campaign. Though a lot of money was paid in the form of advertisements, the press was not fair... For the past two and half years, the press has been playing a role in attacking citizens. I do not believe that this is right. Some papers attacked unions, parties, elections, slogans,

and complaints. Everything was attacked. The truth is that our press was not the genuine image to the people and their problems... The laws of press should be changed. These laws are retarded and incompatible with the development of our country. The press is so far not organised well. I believe that if parties were created, each party would have its own paper. There cannot be parties without papers. When opinions clash the people will know the truth."

Parliament, Arar added, will accomplish its role and harmony will dominate among its members so that solutions proposed will be studied and based on logic.

Arar said some Parliament members might be members of the next cabinet but this would not have any effect on Parliament itself "because the objective is to help people in their affairs."

Arar has called on Parliament to convene Saturday to prepare a reply to His Majesty King Hussein's speech delivered at the opening of Parliament Monday.

Last-minute efforts to avert U.N. resolution

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — European and U.S. diplomats were working up to the last minute in an attempt to block passage of a General Assembly resolution recognising the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the government of Palestine.

The U.S. State Department vowed to cut off all U.S. funding for the United Nations if the resolution passed during a scheduled vote Friday evening.

The United States is assessed \$216 million annually, one-fourth of the U.N.'s budget.

"We are arguing that this destructive resolution be withdrawn or, at a minimum, that any action on it be deferred," a State Department official said late Thursday.

A British diplomat, speaking privately, said the 12 European Community (EC) nations were continuing their efforts to head off the resolution, but have had no success so far.

"We have been engaged in vigorous efforts to head off any such PLO initiative, which would

have serious consequences for the United Nations and complicate the peace process," the State Department official said.

"We are intensifying these efforts today through urgent consultations in Washington, New York and in capitals," he added, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The General Assembly resolution says the PLO "has the powers and responsibilities of the provisional government of the State of Palestine."

It also says the PLO "shall be construed, within the United Nations, as the State of Palestine."

That designation would elevate the PLO to non-voting observer nation status, the same as North and South Korea, Switzerland, Monaco, San Marino and the Vatican.

The resolution was formally introduced in the General Assembly Thursday by Ambassador Mohammad Abu Hassan of Kuwait, chairman of the Arab group, on behalf of 16 Arab sponsors.

E. German parliament ends party monopoly

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — East Germany's newly-unfettered parliament voted overwhelmingly Friday to abolish the Communist Party's constitutionally-guaranteed monopoly on power.

Well over the required two-thirds majority of the 500 members voted by a show of hands to remove the clause in article one of the constitution that says East Germany is led by the working class and the party.

The vote in a televised session underscored the unravelling of Communist power in Eastern Europe. Two days ago Czechoslovakia's parliament agreed to delete similar provisions from Prague's constitution.

The parliament had been expected to address a new travel law, but amended its agenda in a

surprise move at the opening of Friday's session to tackle the issue of Communist domination of the government.

The vote was shown on live, nationwide television.

After the Communists' leading role was abolished, the lawmakers broke into a loud round of applause.

East Germany's newly-formed Green Party demanded Friday that the government return to Jews' property expropriated by the Nazis which it said the Communists then took over without compensation on assuming power after World War II.

Czechoslovakia will begin dismantling its "iron curtain" frontier with Austria later this month and visa-free travel to the West will be available from Monday.

Gorbachev meets Pope, promises ties with Vatican

VATICAN CITY (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev made history Friday by meeting Pope John Paul and declared afterwards that the Vatican and Moscow had agreed in principle to establish relations.

Gorbachev declared: "We have reached agreement in principle to give official status to our interstate relations."

"As for the modalities, they will be determined by our diplomatic officials," he said in an official address at the end of his two-hour visit inside the Vatican, an event that would have been unthinkable until a short time ago.

Ending 70 years of distrust and hostility between the Roman Catholic Church and the world's oldest atheist state, Gorbachev became the first



Marwan Al Qasem

Jordan reaffirms position at Tunis meeting

TUNIS (Agencies) — The extraordinary Arab League Council session here was another opportunity to explain Jordan's constant and principled position toward the national rights of the Palestinian people and the constructive trend the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is adopting to attain these rights, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem said Friday.

"The council's deliberations were characterised by frankness stemming from the spirit of responsibility and commitment towards serving pan-Arab issues," Qasem said at the conclusion of the council's session.

Noting that the council listened to a detailed explanation by Palestine President Yasser Arafat on the Palestinian leadership's peace efforts and the Israeli position, which blocks any progress towards a peaceful settlement, Qasem said that the council sent a petition to U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev expressing the "Arab desire that the international debate and the positive spirit prevailing in international relations will result in sincere efforts to achieve a comprehensive and durable settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict."

Qasem said Jordan proposed that the council discuss the subject of Arab-European dialogue in light of an invitation made by French President Francois Mitterrand to convene an Arab-European meeting in Paris.

Qasem also met with Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and reaffirmed Jordan's support for the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and its efforts to ensure its full participation in an international peace conference.

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"I've seen a lot of confusion in the city," Gorbachev joked to Milan's Mayor Paolo Pillon during a brief reception in the town hall.

"The programme of our visit was made some time ago, you should have been prepared for our visit," Gorbachev quipped.

"I want to salute this confederation, which greeted me on the

streets of Milan. It was amazing... I am very moved."

The underground status of the four-million strong Ukrainian church is the main stumbling block in relations between the Holy See and the Kremlin.

Gorbachev said people of many faiths in the Soviet Union, including Christians, "have a right to satisfy their spiritual needs," and he said a law on freedom of conscience would shortly be adopted.

Expressing strong support for perestroika the Pope declared that the Holy See: "Wishes you success and declares itself ready to support every initiative that will better protect and integrate the rights and duties of individuals and peoples, so that peace may be ensured in Europe and the world."

The Pope also expressed hope that this weekend's summit off Malta between Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush would lead to a new understanding.

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deadlock in the Middle East conflict and told them the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) must have a role in all negotiations.

In a petition sent in advance of the Malta summit, Arab foreign ministers said the superpowers had a responsibility to solve regional conflicts, especially at a time when the cold war in Europe was ending.

"And there is no focus of conflict which is more tense, or more of a threat to world peace than the Middle East," they said in the petition, released by the Arab League after it was delivered to U.S. and Soviet officials in Tunis.

The Arab ministers asked Bush and Gorbachev "to give the Palestinian issue the priority imposed by the gravity of the situation in the Middle East and to break as quickly as possible the deadlock in the peace process which has resulted from the Israeli government's intransigence."

Bush arrived on a rainy, windy day and met Maltese Prime Minister Edward Fenech Adami before heading to the Forestal. He then went to the USS Belknap, his venue for the weekend summit.

Arab states have asked Bush and Gorbachev to break the

Washington, through Secretary

of State James Baker's five-point formula.

In a petition implicitly rejected this approach. "If preparatory steps... are needed, the Arab ministers affirm that the PLO, as the representative of the Palestinian people, must take part in the conference and in those steps," it said.

The ministers suggested Namibia, which has just become independent under a U.N.-sponsored programme, as a suitable model for independence for the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

When the PLO has cited Namibia in the past, the United States has said the two cases are different.

The ministers met in Tunis for two days at the request of the PLO, which asked for the meeting before the Malta summit to discuss "Israel's obstructionist attitude towards the Middle East peace process."

A statement issued after the meeting restated Arab terms for a settlement but did not mention Baker's five-point formula or the Israeli government's proposal to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza.

Gorbachev was to fly to Malta

Friday after meeting with Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti and business leaders in Milan, Italy.

Preceding Gorbachev to Malta, Soviet spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said it was unlikely the summit leaders could do anything to resolve the conflict in Central America, where the United States says Soviet officials are continuing to flow to leftist guerrillas.

"We're not helping anybody there," Gerasimov said. "It's very dangerous to infuse greater power rivalry into this conflict, which we think must be settled by political means."

Before departing Thursday, Bush said the people of Europe can see that "Mr. Gorbachev and I — East and West — are not in some kind of competition. Rather, we're both working to make the world a more peaceful one."

Gorbachev declared Thursday there was no turning back from the democracy reforms sweeping through the Eastern bloc.

The Soviet leader said the United States, Canada and European nations should hold a "Helsinki 2" meeting earlier than the 1992 date set under the 1975 Helsinki accords on human rights and conventional forces, trade issues and regional disputes.

Bush, asked by reporters aboard his official airplane about Gorbachev's proposal, said: "I'll talk to him. Any ideas he's got, I'll discuss them with him. Then we'll let you know."

In his speech aboard the Forestal, Bush mentioned "these recent and extraordinary changes that are taking place in Eastern Europe," and said he yearned for a future "free of both tyranny and fear."

"A new freedom is sweeping the globe. Our meeting here of Malta will last a few days, but the freedom we seek will last for generations," he said.

Malta's entire 1,200-man army

was mobilised to assist in ensuring security for the superpower leaders. Soviet, American and Maltese flags fluttered side by side throughout the capital city.

The U.S. and Soviet warships where two days of summit talks will begin Saturday were anchored offshore, visible from the cliffs overlooking the bay. The ships are the Belknap and the Slava.

Besides the whirlwind changes in Eastern Europe, the 1½ hours of talks between Bush and Gorbachev are likely to deal with negotiations to cut nuclear arms and conventional forces, trade issues and regional disputes.

Political sources quoted by Reuters said clerics have been shuttling for two days between Hrawi and Aoun.

The contacts were aimed at defusing the threat of an armed strike by Syrian forces and their Lebanese allies to topple the general, who rules a quarter of the country and refuses to submit to Hrawi's authority.

"President Hrawi believes that military confrontation will not solve national issues," Maronite monk Basil Hashem told reporters after meeting Hrawi Friday.

"We have great hopes that there will be dialogue between those in power, because only dialogue could provide a solution which will preserve the unity of Lebanon."

Despite heavy rain, Christian youths maintained a human shield around the palace in Baabda east of Beirut to protect Aoun against a Syrian attack.

The youths, sheltering under a sea of umbrellas, sang the national anthem and waved Lebanese flags and placards denouncing Syria.

Meanwhile, Maronite churchmen are spearheading efforts to avert a bloody showdown to be

"Aquino gains upper hand in coup attempt"

MANILA (Agencies) — Forces loyal to Philippine President Corazon Aquino appeared to have turned back an army revolt Friday and said they had recaptured two rebel strongholds on Sulu island.

Potential analysis say growing frustration at the Israeli intrigu-

ance over proposed peace talks could cause a rise in armed attacks.

shot down any (rebel) plane that attempted to take off."

The F-4 Phantom jets were operating out of the U.S. Clark air base, 80 kilometres north of Manila.

Soviet officials swiftly deplored the Washington intervention.

The U.S. military restricted travel by its 40,000 troops, military dependents and Defence Department civilians stationed at the six bases here. Up to 100,000 other U.S. civilians live in the Philippines, and they were warned by the U.S. embassy to stay inside.

It appeared the Aquino government had trouble mustering loyal troops. Mutinous units were seen less than two kilometres from the palace!

Rebels also held parts of Manila's main airport and bombed government installations.

Rebel soldiers would not say

who led them, but added that renegade Colonel Gregorio

Grimo Honasan was among the plotters of the assault. Honasan led an August 1987 coup attempt in which at least 53 people were killed.

Honasan, arrested after that attempt, escaped from prison last year. He gave clandestine interviews last week warning Aquino

of impending trouble.

Honasan played a key role in the military mutiny that started the uprising against Ferdinand Marcos, who died in exile in Hawaii on Sept. 28.

Honasan became disenchanted with Aquino, however, after failing to crush Communist rebels and rid the government of corruption.

Rebel sources said others in the leadership included Marcello Blando, Domingo Calahati, Jose Conendador, and Edgardo Abenina. Abenina was fired as Cebu commander after the August 1987 coup attempt.

The White House said Bush authorised U.S. military action after Aquino called for help.

"This is just a temporary situation," Philippine Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos told reporters.

He said two U.S. war planes "just flew over places of action on a persuasion flight. They did not fire a single shot."

Ramos said rebel leaders had fled Villamor air base, the air force headquarters, and government troops would liberate it soon.

"It (the mutiny) is nearly finished," Ramos said. "The military operations will be completed by early morning."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press

Differences emerge as Carter opens Sudanese peace talks

NAIROBI (R) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter launched peace talks between Sudan's government and southern rebels Friday but sharp differences immediately emerged on how to end their crippling conflict.

Carter, increasingly assuming the mantle of an international peace-maker, told the opening session that both sides had agreed to discuss a truce to the six-year civil war.

"There is a demonstrable determination on both sides to ensure there is success at these talks," he said.

But statements by leaders of delegations from the military government and rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) suggested they were as far apart as ever.

Lam Akol, a senior SPLA commander, scathingly attacked Sudan's Islamic Sharia Laws, signalling that their scrapping remained a key rebel demand.

"We have always been committed ... to the creation of a united Sudan of peace, justice and equality ... A Sudan in which religion is the individual's moral and personal law and a matter between him and his God," Akol said.

"... We believe that religion cannot play a positive role in any state legislation. Besides we trust that, being almighty, God is more than able to enforce his own laws without assistance of human agencies like the police and the courts."

Sharia Laws are now largely dormant but the SPLA, which has been fighting since 1983 to end what it views as the domination of the Christian or animist south by the Muslim, Arabic

north, wants them formally replaced by a secular code.

Military Council member Amin Khalifa, speaking in Arabic, noted that a national conference held in Khartoum in September recommended the creation of a federation. The SPLA boycotted the conference.

Khalifa said a federation would allow each state within Sudan to enact its own laws according to the wishes of the people.

The military junta, which took power in a coup in June, regarded this proposal as addressing SPLA demands, he said.

He said the war was costing the government 1.1 million Sudanese pounds (\$1 million) a day, had killed 259,000 people and crippled economic development in southern Sudan.

The SPLA has already rejected the proposal for a federation. It has demanded the overthrow of General Omar Hassan Al Bashir's Military Council, establishment of a broad-based gov-

ernment and a national conference to draw up a new constitution.

The first face-to-face peace talks between the SPLA and the military government, which is widely seen as having Islamic tendencies, collapsed in August over the issue of Islamic Laws.

Fighting erupted again late in October after a series of unilateral ceasefires which had enabled more than 100,000 tonnes of food aid to reach southern Sudan, also devastated by prolonged drought.

Carter, fresh from staging a second round of peace talks between Ethiopia and separatist rebels, said he would chair the first session of the Sudan-SPLA talks and then leave the two sides to hold direct negotiations.

He led an international committee of observers to Panama earlier this year which successfully lobbied for the annulment of the country's fraudulent polls. He will also oversee Nicaragua's forthcoming general elections.

ment was responsible to the National Assembly and not to the Central Committee.

But he admitted the old guard had successfully played on ideological and nostalgic attachment to Boumedienne's 14-year rule that ended with his death in 1979. The reformist message had yet to be successfully explained to the rank and file, he added.

The official suggested the hardliners may be less dangerous in the party power structure than outside, where they might form a new opposition bloc with wide popular appeal.

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It skirted most key issues of proposed economic reform, but gave qualified support for joint ventures with foreign partners.

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Algeria's ruling party reformists suffer setback

ALGIERS (R) — Reformists seeking a new direction for Algeria's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) suffered a setback Friday with a surprise resurgence of old guard companions of former President Houari Boumedienne.

Ageing ex-guerrillas who dominated the party apparatus in the 1970s wooed young delegates with fiery nationalist rhetoric and secured new Central Committee seats in a three-day congress deemed crucial for the party's future.

Reformist leaders said there was no immediate threat to sweeping political and economic reforms launched by President Chadli Benjedid to pull the country out of social and economic crisis after youth riots last year.

But they expressed disappointment that rank and file delegates, participating en masse in a party

congress for the first time, showed such strong support for the old guard.

The FLN faces the country's first multi-party elections since independence next year after ruling Algeria alone with an iron grip for 27 years.

Among those elected to an enlarged 267-member Central Committee were former industry Czar Abdessalem Belaid, ex-Foreign Minister Abdel Aziz Bouteflika and former party boss Mohammed Salah Yahiaoui, architects of Boumedienne's hardline socialism. They were ousted from the Central Committee in 1981.

Belaid, who led a Soviet-style industrialisation drive in the 1970s, has attacked Benjedid's liberal economic reforms as threatening the public sector and its ideals of social justice.

Benjedid has already intro-

duced a multi-party democracy that is one of the Third World's freest, with at least 12 opposition parties ranging from Communists to Islamic fundamentalists set to challenge the FLN in local elections next year.

The economic reforms aim to revive a stagnant public sector by introducing market mechanisms, foreign investment and decentralised decision-making.

Belaid, Bouteflika and Yahiaoui were careful not to criticise Benjedid or his reforms directly during the congress and some reformists said they might have been won over. It remained to be seen whether they would have a place in the party plenum which has yet to be chosen.

"The return of the old guard in no way calls into question the reforms," one leading reformer told reporters, saying the govern-

ment was responsible to the National Assembly and not to the Central Committee.

But he admitted the old guard had successfully played on ideological and nostalgic attachment to Boumedienne's 14-year rule that ended with his death in 1979. The reformist message had yet to be successfully explained to the rank and file, he added.

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It skirted most key issues of proposed economic reform, but gave qualified support for joint ventures with foreign partners.

Moroccans vote in referendum to delay elections

RABAT (R) — Moroccans voted in a referendum Friday on whether to endorse King Hassan's decision to postpone general elections and thereby give the United Nations two more years to resolve the Western Sahara conflict.

The king urged the electorate of more than seven million to cast white 'yes' ballots at 60,000 polling stations throughout the country, including the disputed Western Sahara, to prolong parliament's mandate by two years.

Diplomats said the delay would also help the king to extend a virtual political truce in force since 1976 when Polisario guerrillas began fighting Morocco for the independence of the desert

territory.

Opposition groups were man-

oeuvred into backing calls for a resounding 'yes' vote when the king linked the issue with the long-running Sahara war.

King Hassan said in a broadcast 10 days ago he had decided to postpone legislative elections until 1992 to enable the United Nations to hold a self-determination referendum in Western Sahara.

The referendum would allow the people of the thinly-populated territory rich in phosphate deposits to choose between independence or integration with Morocco.

Morocco and the Polisario accepted the U.N. plan with re-

servations in August 1988 but it has been stalled by guerrilla demands that Moroccan troops, administration and settlers must withdraw before the vote.

King Hassan described his decision to delay elections as a goodwill gesture to give the United Nations more time to implement its plan.

He said it would also forestall any accusations that Western Saharans were elected to parliament before their status as Moroccan citizens was confirmed by the international community.

The king has said that Morocco, which controls most of Western Sahara, will hold its own vote if the United Nations referendum does not take place by 1992.

Ethiopia asks rebels to allow famine relief

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia Friday called on rebels in northern areas to stop their "destructive war" and allow relief food to be distributed to famine victims.

The Information Ministry statement said the policies of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) were the "root cause" of the hunger in the region.

"The political stand of secessionist groups, and the war they are waging, has created havoc to development activities — triggering deaths and a mass exodus of citizens due to drought and starvation," the Information Ministry said.

Ethiopia has appealed to foreign donors for food for an esti-

mated 1.85 million people who it says face famine in the coming year. International aid agencies put the number facing starvation much higher — up to four million.

The two rebel groups control large areas of northern Ethiopia, where most of the famine-threatened people live.

Ethiopia says the continuing war in the north prevents it from moving food supplies to the worst-hit areas, but the Tigrayan Front says its own relief organisation can meet demand if food is made available.

The Information Ministry statement called on the TPLF, in particular, to stop its "policy of war and destruction".

It urged the TPLF to halt

"aggressive actions" and take its case to the negotiating table — a reference to peace talks opened in Rome last month between the

Ethiopian government and the Tigrayan Front. The Rome meeting was described as a preliminary one.

but were postponed upon a request from Sofia government following the recent political shakeup in Bulgaria.

The second meeting will be between Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz and his Bulgarian counterpart Boiko Dimitrov, who succeeded Petar Mladenov...

Mladenov was named head of state to replace Todor Zhivkov.

No official casualty figures have been released, but unofficial Western estimates put the toll on both sides as a million dead.

Iraq celebrates Dec. 1 as "martyrs' day" in honour of prisoners of war (PoWs) it says were massacred by Iran in 1981 as well as those who died in action.

About 1,000 Iraqi and foreign writers, gathering in Baghdad for a poetry festival, laid flowers at a monument to the war dead east of the city.

The ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra blamed Iran for delaying the exchange of a total of about 100,000 PoWs still held by both sides, 60,000 of them in Iran.

"Iran insists on using this humanitarian issue as a cheap

bargaining card in the political negotiations," the paper said.

Peace talks began after the ceasefire had stalled, though both sides say they want to avoid renewed fighting.

Meanwhile Iran reported Thursday that it had received Oman's backing in its dispute with Iraq over the Shatt Al Arab border river.

The Iranian News Agency (IRNA) said Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Youssef Alawi, told Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati that sovereignty over the waterway was set out in 1975 treaty between Iran and Iraq.

IRNA quoted Alawi as saying no one could expect Iran to waive its rights under the treaty, which gave Iran control over the Eastern half of the waterway.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein tore up the agreement in 1980 on the eve of the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, saying the pact was set out under duress.

"The 1975 accord is still the main basis for determining the border with Iraq and is no way alterable," IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Velayati as saying.

AMMAN: Dr. Wael Dumeiti 740000
Dr. Iman Abu Rabi 681567
Dr. Salman Al Dabbashi 776571
Dr. Majed Abu Snaich 520635
Firas pharmacy 661912
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Yacoub pharmacy 636730
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

FEVER THERAPY: Fair (Sunrise) Dulls 615122
Dials 141513
'Air

It will be partly cloudy to cloudy at times with expected scattered showers of rain and winds will be northwesterly

moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with possible scattered showers and winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.:
Ammman 12/15
Deserts 4/14
Jordan Valley 11/18

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 80 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

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Dr. Salman Al Dabbashi 776571
Dr. Majed Abu Snaich 520635
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Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy to cloudy at times with expected scattered showers of rain and winds will be northwesterly

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Hotel Complaints 605300
Police 661176
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Don't wait for the superpowers

CONTRARY to widespread speculations, the Bush-Gorbachev Malta summit is no Yalta by any stretch of the imagination. Unlike the post World War II era, neither Moscow nor Washington has a tight grip on their respective allies and, accordingly, they cannot agree or disagree on matters touching on their partners without their direct consent. What transpired in East Europe in the last few weeks makes clear that the Warsaw Pact countries are taking their future into their own hands and independently of the wishes of Moscow. Likewise, Washington's relations with Western Europe have developed along the lines of collective decision-making on all matters affecting the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. As a matter of fact, given the new ground rules governing international relations in the nineties, Moscow and Washington have lost much of their powers to dictate the shape of events globally and internationally. Before the end of the twentieth century, at least one of them would lose its status as a superpower in terms of the needs and circumstances of the twenty-first century.

What Presidents Gorbachev and Bush can do best is to agree on ways and means to beef up the process of reformation that is sweeping across East Europe and extend it to reach other nations of the world. There are many countries on both sides of the fence and elsewhere which are looking with astonishment and bewilderment at the events as they rapidly unfold in East Europe. The shock treatment that those observing countries have received from Berlin, Budapest, Prague or Warsaw is being transformed into an impetus that propels the phenomenon of change. Many of such states would have wished that they had prepared themselves better for the inevitable before it was forced upon them.

For the Arab World, it would be a waste of time to even contemplate that the two leaders would take much time to address the broader Arab-Israeli conflict. In this context two phenomena can be discerned. At a time when American-Israeli relations have not been negatively affected by the end of the cold war, Warsaw Pact countries' relations with the Arab World are projected to be negatively affected. Simultaneously, East European countries' relations with Tel Aviv are expected to warm up. What saves Israel from the aftereffects of the change in East-West relations is the organic involvement of Israel and Jewish lobbyists in the domestic American politics including the presidential elections. In other words, U.S.-Israeli relations go beyond and are deeper than strict strategic relations to stem the flow of Moscow's strategic interests in the Middle East. The upshot of all this is to have the Arab capitals increase their self-reliance instead of reaching out to Gorbachev and Bush to talk about the Palestinian case between sessions.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic paper on Friday discussed cooperation between the legislative authority represented by the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament on the one hand and the executive authority represented by the government on the other. The paper noted that both houses will soon submit replies to the speech from the throne, delivered to the joint session last Monday by His Majesty King Hussein, and said that the two replies were expected to reaffirm parliament's readiness to launch close cooperation with the government in all matters of national interest. Parliament, the paper said, is a forum where the deputies can air their views and openly discuss matters of concern to the country and Jordanian citizens; but, the paper added, Parliament should also show a great measure of cooperation with the executive authority so as to enhance the democratic process initiated by King Hussein and under his guidance and direction. The paper said that the executive and legislative authorities are bound to display their determination to confront and deal with the challenges that loom in the offing.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily discusses Lebanon in the light of the new crisis between General Michel Aoun and the government of President Elias Hrawi. Abdul Rahim Omar says that the situation is extremely dangerous in view of the adamant position of the general who refuses to recognise the president and submit to parliament decisions, thus endangering his country and the Lebanese people. The writer points to Israel's recent military provocations and its raids in South Lebanon as part of the ongoing Israeli attempts to escalate tension and create more difficulties for the Lebanese to reach solution. Omar says that the Lebanese crisis is indeed being internationalised especially with the intervention of a number of foreign powers like France and therefore, he concludes, that there is one ray of hope coming from the U.S.-Soviet summit in Malta this weekend.

Al Dostour daily newspaper discussed Lebanon in its editorial Friday, echoing King Hussein's expression of deep concern over the situation and the dim prospects for a speedy solution. The paper said that the hardened positions of the two sides in the conflict does not augur well for the Lebanese in general, and tends to undermine the mediation efforts of the Arab League and its three-member committee. The paper voiced support for the Arab League and its mission in Lebanon and said that there is no alternative to peace and negotiation for a settlement if no more blood is to be shed on Lebanese soil. The paper also appealed to the Arab countries to find a way to boost the Arab committee's efforts and bring about a peaceful settlement.



Bush-Gorbachev meeting marks new cycle in post-war history

By Alexander M. Sullivan

WASHINGTON — The start of a new cycle in post-World War II history will be formalised when President Bush and Soviet leader Gorbachev meet in Malta Dec. 2 and 3.

The two presidents will board warships in a Maltese bay to talk about peace, about re-ordering the concepts of their respective foreign policies to match the hardwork accomplished by the indomitable people of Poland and Hungary, East Germany and Czechoslovakia, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, the Ukraine, Russia. They will discuss cycle of change that is making war seem less and less thinkable and democracy the dominant credo of the late 20th century. They will talk about arms control negotiations, and, perhaps, will question if events have not seriously bypassed both of their bargaining positions, especially in the conventional arms talks.

The two men will hold the first of five discussions Dec. 2 aboard the Soviet cruiser Slava, a nuclear-capable vessel, and later ones on the guided missile cruiser USS Belknap; both vessels will be at anchor in Marsaxlokk Bay. They will confer, with aides present, for about two hours before retiring for an hour-long private conversation. The two men will stroll on the Slava's deck before lunching together in the ship's wardroom. Plans call for Bush to return to the Belknap for some private time, then return to Slava for another expanded meeting.

Bush has been cautiously — he calls it prudently — arranging Washington's accommodation to change since last spring, when he spelled out in a series of speeches his administration's foreign policy principles. First, he told Polish-American citizens in the ethnic precincts of Hamtramck, Michigan, the United States would help, with moral support and investment dollars, the movement in Poland and Hungary towards economic reform. Bush followed through on both pledges when he travelled to those countries in the summer.

Not only did the president arrange economic assistance packages for each, he got agreement from the industrialised democracies at the Paris economic summit for a coordinated Western effort to help Warsaw and Budapest make the transition

By George Jahn
The Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — Nicolae Ceausescu's ringing rejection of reform is leaving him with fewer friends, as Warsaw Pact allies move towards democracy and Western countries step up criticism of Romania's human rights record.

At the Romanian Communist Party congress that ended Friday, the "conducator" — or supreme leader, as Ceausescu is known — renounced the reforms taking place in the six other Warsaw Pact nations.

He proclaimed a strengthened role for the Romanian Communist Party, which will be translated into further restrictions on a society that already is the most tightly controlled in the Eastern Bloc.

"The party cannot give up its responsibility," he declared. "It cannot surrender its historical mission to another force."

Expressing contempt for the political liberalisation reshaping parts of East Germany, Bulgaria, and Czechoslovakia — whose 24 years in power make him the most senior Eastern Bloc leader — suggested that reform-minded Communist leaders elsewhere had betrayed their people.

His comments were met by orchestrated displays of support from congress delegates. But the staged support could not gloss over the rapidly widening politico-

British. The Turks tried, and so did the Nazis, but Malta withstood both sieges. As Bush has noted, the U.S. and Soviet ships will be anchored above the wrecks of slave galleys and galley-slaves, dreadnoughts and destroyers "once meant to guard lasting empires" but now guarding "nothing more than reefs of coral." The lesson, the president said, seems plain: "True security does not come from empire and domination. True security can only be found in the growing trust of free peoples."

Central to the talks will be the transition from the security manufactured, however, uneasily, from buffer states backed by armies of tanks and missiles to the security of free-flowing commerce in ideas, cultures, people and goods. Bush will surely want Gorbachev to spell out the parameters of his toleration of change in Eastern Europe and inside the Soviet Union. Gorbachev, it is said, will ask Bush for assurances that the West will not use the cycle of change for its own aggrandisement, seeking further elaboration on Bush's comment that Americans "welcome reform not as an adversary seeking advantage." The Soviet leader may also seek help for his troubled economy, perhaps in the form of expertise rather than aid.

The two men will hold the second of five discussions Dec. 2 aboard the Soviet cruiser Slava, a nuclear-capable vessel, and later ones on the guided missile cruiser USS Belknap; both vessels will be at anchor in Marsaxlokk Bay. They will confer, with aides present, for about two hours before retiring for an hour-long private conversation. The two men will stroll on the Slava's deck before lunching together in the ship's wardroom. Plans call for Bush to return to the Belknap for some private time, then return to Slava for another expanded meeting.

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They have chosen as the site of talks a nation which bears mute testimony to the futility of armed domination. Malta in its time has been conquered by the Phoenicians of the pre-Christian era and in turn by Rome, the Arabs, the Normans, the French and the

British. The Turks tried, and so did the Nazis, but Malta withstood both sieges. As Bush has noted, the U.S. and Soviet ships will be anchored above the wrecks of slave galleys and galley-slaves, dreadnoughts and destroyers "once meant to guard lasting empires" but now guarding "nothing more than reefs of coral." The lesson, the president said, seems plain: "True security does not come from empire and domination. True security can only be found in the growing trust of free peoples."

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The two men will hold the third of five discussions Dec. 3, Gorbachev will board the Belknap for the third expanded meeting. A tour of the ship is expected before luncheon. A second private meeting is planned before the two leaders issue a joint press statement and hold separate news conferences concluding the two days of talks.

Not only did the president arrange economic assistance packages for each, he got agreement from the industrialised democracies at the Paris economic summit for a coordinated Western effort to help Warsaw and Budapest make the transition

The fact that a new cycle has

started is proof that diplomatic theory sometimes bears fruit in the real world. The theory was enunciated more than 40 years ago by a former U.S. ambassador to Moscow. When George Kennan looked around the world of the late 1940s, he saw a Stalinist Soviet Union which had shattered

the spirit and the letter of the Yalta agreements; Stalin had substituted bayonets and bullets for the promised free elections in Eastern Europe, and he seemed intent on gobbling up Greece and Turkey as well. Many feared he had designs, too, on Western Europe.

But Kennan also noted that while Stalin sat atop a state-controlled economy that could supply the arms to repress peoples and threaten neighbours, his system did not seem capable of providing the stuff of life to its people over the long haul.

So Kennan counselled patience in the West. He was convinced that communism would fail, a victim of its own internal contradictions. Its aggression should be contained by Western nations furnished with the sines for war, even as they sought peace; bolstered by the community of shared political ideals, which they agreed to defend; and armoured by a common thirst for freedom, which they proclaim is humanity's right and destiny.

Finally, in a speech at Texas A & M University, and more recently in his Thanksgiving address to the nation, Bush has again and again expressed America's fervent support for the reform efforts of Gorbachev. As Bush said Nov. 22, there is no greater fan of perestroika than the president of the United States.

The cycle of change, of course, has been under way for some time, whether its inception is counted early — from the Reykjavik summit — or late — from the breaching of the Berlin Wall. At Reykjavik, the White House and the Kremlin came close to agreeing to ban all ballistic nuclear weapons. The opening of the Berlin Wall signalled acknowledgement by one of communism's hardest-line regimes that the will of the people, at least in this instance, could not be resisted, not even by whips and prods and tanks.

The task for Bush and Gorbachev — the task for all nations and peoples of East and West — is to replace the old order, now lying in the rubble of the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain, with a "new partnership" that will take on the important issues of our time — the environment, global warming, drugs, hunger, disease and human rights — U.S. Information Agency.

And just as Kennan predicted, the communist system has been judged by its practitioners and found wanting, first in the Soviet Union and China, then Hungary, then Poland...

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In a new challenge, Ceausescu suggested in his keynote congress speech that his nominal Soviet ally give up control of territory gained through a pre-World War II pact with Nazi Germany that resulted in Romania ceding Bessarabia — now Soviet Moldavia — to its powerful neighbour.

Communist Party delegations from several countries — including Italy and Warsaw Pact ally Hungary — boycotted the congress, a move that would have been an unheard-of affront just five years ago.

The growing isolation of Ceausescu's Romania also was reflected by the near-complete absence of Western representation at the congress.

Chiefs of Western diplomatic missions had attended past Communist Party congresses as a show of courtesy. But the 14th congress was boycotted by the 12-member European Economic Community, all 16 NATO nations except Turkey, most Latin American democracies, and almost all of Europe's neutral countries.

They were protesting Romania's poor human rights record — "ignored back in the 1970s, when Ceausescu was tweaking the Russian bear's tail," said a diplomat, who invoked the customary rules of anonymity.

The Romanian leader's independent foreign policy decisions, such as refusing to join other Warsaw Pact nations in invading Czechoslovakia in 1968, or defying a Soviet bloc boycott of the 1985 Los Angeles summer Olympics, was met with applause from the United States and its allies.

The cheers have since turned to jeers.

"They're being very consistent, it's the rest of the world that's changing," Canadian Ambassador Sol Gray said, referring to the democratic changes taking place in the rest of the Soviet bloc.

Romania is under growing attack for its severe travel restrictions, lack of free speech and strict limits on religious practice.

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Yahya Khaldi, peintre d'affiches de cinéma

Entre réalisme et caricature

Le Syrien Yahya Khaldi est l'un des deux peintres employés par les cinémas d'Amman pour la promotion de leurs films. Un métier qu'il a exercé pendant plus de 14 ans à Alep et qui l'a amené, il y a trois mois seulement, en Jordanie. Copies conformes des photos fournies avec les bobines ou recompositions



Exécutées à partir des affiches ou de photos des films, les luxueuses banderoles de Yahya Khaldi oscillent entre réalité et caricature.

L'affiche de Batman, qui domine le Nijoum, c'est lui. Six mètres sur trois de drap imperméabilisé où apparaissent les visages de Jack Nicholson, Michael Keaton (sous son masque) et Kim Basinger. La composition n'a rien à voir avec une quelconque photo du film ni avec le poster « officiel » du long-métrage de la Warner, mais le message passe.

Tout en croquant au plus juste les traits des trois acteurs principaux, Yahya Khaldi a pris les libertés qui lui autorisent son métier de peintre d'affiches de cinéma. « Je ne copie presque jamais les dessins de presse des films », explique-t-il. « Je prends simplement les éléments utiles ou nécessaires à la présentation ». Le reste est affaire d'inspiration... ou d'exigence commerciale.

Depuis 15 années qu'il exerce cette profession, Yahya a rodé sa technique. « Je dessine des carreaux sur les parties des photos ou des affiches que je veux reproduire », précise-t-il. « Je reporte ensuite ce quadrillage à une très grande échelle sur la toile que je

peins au mur et je fais une esquisse au crayon. Puis je peins l'arrière-plan de l'affiche avant de me mettre aux personnages et au texte ». Simple et efficace.

Entre réalisme et caricature, ses dessins font mouche. Les compositions sont aisément identifiables, l'ensemble de la scène vivant et charmant. Une qualité de travail qui lui vaut d'être sollicité par les grandes salles de la capitale à chaque sortie de film. Son « concurrent », Mohammad Khalaf, se contentait le plus souvent dans l'exécution des panneaux des cinémas de la ville basse, sur lesquels la rapidité du coup de pinceau rejoint le thème des films: karaté ou guerre des étoiles.

15 dinars

Reconnu comme un « bon ouvrier », Yahya Khaldi se voit confié en moyenne la réalisation de vingt affiches par mois. Un rythme de production acharné, qui exige parfois

qu'il passe des journées entières dans le petit atelier, que lui a fourni le Philadelphia, près du troisième cercle de Djebel Amman. Il arrive qu'on me demande de fournir une affiche dans les 24 heures, souligne-t-il. Or, j'estime que pour faire un bon travail, il faut deux à trois jours.

Seul avec ses pinceaux, le jeune peintre a pourtant bien du mal à joindre les deux bouts. « On me paye 15 dinars pour une affiche », lâche-t-il. Une somme modique, même si les cinémas lui procurent à chaque commande le matériel nécessaire.

Mal rémunéré, Yahya n'en aime pas moins ce métier, qu'il a appris à ses débuts. Après un séjour au Liban, en 1973, au cours duquel il s'est découvert une passion pour le dessin, le jeune Syrien, alors âgé de 17 ans, est rentré au pays avec l'idée de poursuivre son apprentissage. « J'ai commencé à vraiment travailler avec un peintre d'Alep. Pendant deux ans, il m'a enseigné la peinture d'affiches, de tableaux et de photos ».

En 1978, après un long service militaire de trois ans, Yahya décide de se lancer. Il s'installe à son compte de Alep. « La première affiche que j'ai produite était celle du film « Papillon », avec Dustin Hoffman et Steve Mac Queen », se souvient-il. A l'époque, il se met même à la peinture artistique et signe ses premiers tableaux.

« Je signe également les affiches commerciales quand je les estime réussies, poursuit-il. Mais, c'est devenu difficile, vu qu'on exige maintenant que nous ayons de plus en plus vite ». Commercialisation oblige, les films, que les cinémas jordaniens doivent acheter, faute de copyright, tournent en effet à une vitesse effrénée.

A 33 ans, Yahya Khaldi continue cependant à se consacrer à la peinture. Avec parfois au cœur, la nostalgie des « belles années » d'Alep et, dans la tête, le rêve de pouvoir un jour économiser assez d'argent pour ouvrir un véritable atelier.

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Sudan seeking membership

African presidents debate boosting preferential trade area operations

NAIROBI (R) — Sudan has formally asked to join the preferential trade area (PTA) of east and southern Africa, Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi has said.

"We (PTA heads of state) will discuss Sudan's application for membership in this summit," Moi, current PTA chairman, told a meeting of the group's heads of state in Nairobi.

"Zaire has also shown interest in the PTA and sent observers to this year's summit," he added, but he did not make clear whether Kinshasa planned to join Sudan in seeking membership.

At its opening session Thursday, the summit of the 16-member bloc approved a budget of 2.7 million UAPTA — the PTA's currency — (\$3.5 million) for 1990, four per cent above the 2.6 million (\$3.4 million) for 1989.

The summit is addressing ways to boost regional links in such areas as trade, industry, agriculture, transport and communications.

PTA Secretary-General Bax Nomvete told the same meeting all member states had paid up

their contributions but gave no further details.

Despite signs of increased internal trade in 1989 as well as members' commitment to success, the PTA needed an "emergency economic rescue operation," Nomvete said.

He blamed shrinking markets for Africa's exports, falling commodity prices and decreasing aid and private investment for weakening national economies and raising the continent's external debt, estimated at \$240 billion.

Nomvete proposed joint investments by African and foreign firms, establishment of a PTA monetary union, modernisation of transport systems and provision of training to African businessmen, to save the group from collapse.

The PTA, founded in 1981, is seeking a free market by the turn of the century, stretching from

Swaziland in southern Africa to Ethiopia in northeast.

In his opening address, Moi urged PTA members to make greater use of the UAPTA.

"I would urge all member states to utilise to the fullest the (Harare-based) clearing house and UAPTA cheques," he added.

"UAPTA cheques would make the PTA sub-region less dependent on hard currencies," he said.

When businessmen use the UAPTA to settle a regional trade deal, the importer pays his country's central bank in local currency and the central bank notifies

the PTA clearing house in Zimbabwe.

The clearing house credits the amount to a UAPTA denominated account in favour of the exporting country, debits the importing country for the same amount and instructs the central bank of the exporting country to pay the exporter in local currency.

The outgoing PTA chairman, Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, said the organisation was due to establish a monetary union with backing from the World Bank and IMF. He gave no further details.

Iran misses out as Western money heads for E. Europe

DUBAI (R) — The economic lure of Eastern Europe has left Iran out in the cold, making Western financiers more reluctant than ever to head for Tehran, economists say.

"The West has enough to think about on its own doorstep now," said an Iranian economic analyst.

"There is only so much money to go around and we like the look of Eastern Europe and wish is happening there," said a Gulf-based European banker.

Iran's failure to end political rows with the main Western nations, or give clear guarantees on Western investments, already looked like harming efforts to rebuild its economy after eight years of war, financial analysts said.

They said Iran needed at least \$15 billion of hard currency a year to recover from economic mismanagement and the devastating conflict with Iraq, which ended with a ceasefire in August last year.

The oil industry, Iran's main foreign exchange earner, is in particular need of investment. But Western bankers said that even if Iran managed to borrow from abroad, it could find loan terms painfully tight.

Tehran has so far failed in its efforts to recover \$12 billion of assets which it says have been frozen in the United States.

It has tried to link release of the assets with release of Western hostages held by pro-Iranian guerrillas in Lebanon. But Washington says the two issues must be dealt with separately.

Britain says Iran must make the first move to end a row over British novelist Salman Rushdie, whom late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini said should be killed for blaspheming against Islam.

Iran has no such option following its war with Arab Iraq and continuing political and ideological feuds with Saudi Arabia.

In the energy sector, Iran plans to spend \$13.4 billion in foreign currency on its oil, gas and petrochemical industries over the next five years.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday November 30, 1989
Central Bank, official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	105.1	106.2
U.S. dollar	641.0	647.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	448.5	453.0
Pound Sterling	1003.5	1013.5	Dutch guilder	317.5	321.0
Deutschmark	358.4	362.0	Swiss franc	108.3	101.3
Swiss franc	402.7	406.7	Italian lire (for 100)	45.6	49.1
			Belgian franc (for 10)	171.5	173.0

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Nov. 25-29	Nov. 18-22
Daily average	JD 2,178,133	JD 1,560,309
Total volume	JD 8,712,531	JD 7,801,546
Total shares	3,785,083	3,455,905
No. of contracts	4,440	4,642
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 6,187,674	JD 5,824,294
(71.0%)	(73.8%)	
Financial	JD 1,445,327	JD 1,283,473
(16.6%)	(16.5%)	
Service	(11.8%)	(7.4%)
Insurance	(0.6%)	(2.3%)
Share price index	135.3	134.4
No. of companies	62	57
Price movement (rise)	32	23
(decline)	17	19
(stable)	13	15

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.5655/65	U.S. dollars	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1675/85	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders
	1.7808/15	Swiss francs	Belgian francs
	2.0088/93	French francs	Italian lire
	1.5923/33	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns
	37.37/41	Swedish crowns	Norwegian crowns
	6.0790/840	Danish crowns	U.S. dollars
	1312/1313		
	143.05/15		
	6.3750/800		
	6.8075/125		
	6.9100/50		
	413.40/413.90		

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The All Ordinaries index gained 13.1 to 1624.7 on hopes for easier interest rates early next year.

TOKYO — Tokyo's seven-day rally halted as the Nikkei index lost 136.11 points to close at 37,152.68 after heavy trading, especially in trading houses and shipping stocks.

HONG KONG — Share prices closed firmer but off earlier highs on lack of trading interest, brokers said. The Hang Seng index rose 8.55 to 2,756.90.

SINGAPORE — Selected buying alternated with profit-taking. The Straits Times index fell 2.77 to end at 1,408.51.

BOMBAY — Share prices rose broadly on hectic short-covering and fresh buying as fears of a stalemate in the formation of a new government began to recede. Century Enka rose 75 rupees to 35.44 points and Tata Steel five to 111.75.

FRANKFURT — Hectic buying was sparked by a report that a Mannesmann-led consortium won a contract for West Germany's first private mobile telephone network. The DAX index gained 35.44 points to an intraday high of 1,612.87.

ZURICH — Concern over high Swiss interest rates waned. "Sentiment is positive but volume is still moderate," a dealer said. The all-share index gained 5.5. to 1,146.1.

PARIS — The CAC-40 was 25.96 higher at mid-day at 1,916.39. "The Paris market has taken off again with strong buying," said Xavier De Beugny of brokers Puget-Mahe.

LONDON — Absence of sellers squeezed prices upward. "I think most people feel the market is far too high," a dealer commented. "There'll be a correction, but when? the fundamentals are not positive." At 1624 GMT the FTSE was up 30.1 to 2,306.9.

NEW YORK — Optimism about the superpower summit and hope that interest rates will be eased to boost a soft economy pushed the Dow Jones industrials 22.83 points higher to 2,729.1 at 1626 GMT.

Jordan wins \$300m deposits, \$50m loan and reduced rates

By a Jordan Times staff writer

AMMAN — Jordan's efforts to redress its economic course received a fresh boost this week with five Gulf Arab states agreeing to deposit a total of \$300 million with the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) for use by the Kingdom, informed sources said Friday.

In another development, the Ministry of Finance said in a statement released Thursday that the government had finalised terms for debt rescheduling with creditor banking institutions grouped in the London Club and that commercial banks had agreed to release \$50 million to make up for undebased funds.

The five Arab states making up the \$300 million deposit with the Abu Dhabi-based AMF are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman, the sources said. No details of individual contributions by the five were immediately available but the source indicated that Saudi Arabia had the largest share.

The source also indicated that Kuwait's share was around \$80 million.

Jordan will pay interest on the deposit at two percentage points below market rates, and will deposit an equivalent amount in Jordanian dinars in blocked accounts at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) in Amman as collateral for each of the five contributing countries, according to an official source.

The five countries have undertaken that they would not be drawing on the dinar deposits and Jordan was free to draw from the dollar account, other sources said.

The help from the five states, all members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), was promised in July and the final form of the deposits was negotiated and agreed upon earlier this month, according to the sources. CBJ Governor Mohammad Said Al Nasif initiated the discussions with his counterparts from the GCC on the fringes of a meeting of Arab central bank governors in Tunis in September. He also visited several GCC capitals in pursuit of the matter.

It was not immediately known how long the arrangement would last or whether the \$300 million was a final figure. It was expected earlier that the amount could go as much as \$600 million, after senior officials denied reports that one of the five countries had deposited \$1 billion with the CBJ in a move to help Jordan overcome its financial problems.

The Gulf states also extended financial aid to the Kingdom to the tune of about \$420 million since April this year, including a \$200 million grant from Saudi Arabia and \$40 million worth of oil from Kuwait, thus boosting the CBJ's foreign exchange reserves to about \$500 million from \$130 million in December last year.

AMF Director-General Usama Al Faqih visited Jordan last week and held talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the finance minister and the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan.

According to an official statement, Faqih presented to Sharif Zeid an AMF study on the economic situation in Jordan. The study, conducted in coordination with the World Bank, will be released at the regional and international levels with a view to attracting investments in the Kingdom, the statement said.

Thursday's Finance Ministry statement said that under the agreement on debt rescheduling terms with the London Club, commercial banks reduced their management fee from 3/8 per cent to 1/8, and Jordan could pay half of its interest arrears this year and the rest in the first quarter of next year.

The statement said a six-member steering committee of the London Club held talks with the Ministry of Finance and the CBJ in the third week of November on "the issue of undebased loans from committed funds, the restructuring of the management fee and payment of interest in arrears."

According to banking sources quoted by Reuters, the \$50 million, which will carry an interest of 13/16 point above the London Inter Bank Lending Rate (LIBOR), would be released only after Jordan came current with interest payments due to the institutions represented in the London Club.

In September, Jordan reached agreement in principle with the London Club to reschedule \$575 million, representing principal repayments due from December 1989 until June 1991. Under the agreement, Jordan was to pay about \$89 million interest due in 1989 before the end of the year.

According to sources quoted by Reuters, Jordan made an initial interest payment of \$26 million this week and will pay \$20 million on Dec. 15, \$13 million on Feb. 15 and the balance by March 31.

Finance Minister Jarash said that Jordan will register a surplus in its balance of payments this year after the rescheduling arrangements and payment of dues to Arab and international financing agencies which do not have rescheduling practices. He has also said that prospects were good for 1990 for a similar situation.

The World Bank, the government of Japan and the government of West Germany have agreed to lend Jordan \$150 million, \$150 million and \$17 million respectively to help the Kingdom's balance of payments as well as finance some of its imports during the year 1990.

S. Korea to expand liberalisation

SEOUL (AP) — Foreign investment of up to \$100 million per project in South Korea's manufacturing sector will be automatically approved under loosened rules, the finance ministry has said. Ministry officials said enforcement regulations for the foreign capital investment act would be revised soon to implement the liberalisation. The new rules, to take effect Jan. 1, will replace the current \$3 million limit.

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1989

Murder of 'Lord of Money' shocks German businesses

FRANKFURT (R) — The murder Thursday of West Germany's leading commercial banker has robbed the country of one of its most influential economic thinkers and strategists.

The central bank, the Bundesbank, described the death of Alfred Herrhausen, charismatic head of the country's largest bank, Deutsche Bank, as a major loss for the whole of Germany.

"Banks had previously been closed about discussing their strategy," the banker said. "Herrhausen changed this and this was a major contribution."

Other analysts said the death of Herrhausen was a substantial shock to West Germany's largest bank and Commerzbank.

"Banks had previously been closed about discussing their strategy," the banker said. "Herrhausen changed this and this was a major contribution."

West German bankers expected Herrhausen's successor to carry on his plans

Sports

SPORTS IN BRIEF

REAL MADRID BEAT ATLETICO 2-0: Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez scored twice as league champions Real Madrid beat city rivals Atletico 2-0 Thursday to reach the quarter-finals of the Spanish cup. Sanchez shot Real ahead in the 35th minute with a low, powerful left-foot shot after being set up by West German midfielder Bernd Schneider. Seven minutes from time, the Mexican international robbed Atletico midfielder Rafael Gordillo and chipped the ball to the left of goalkeeper Abel Resino to complete his side's 2-0 aggregate win in the second round tie.

COMMISSION BLAMES CHILE GOALKEEPER: A commission of Chilean jurists has agreed with the International Football Federation (FIFA) that goalkeeper Roberto Rojas faked injury during a controversial World Cup qualifier against Brazil. Rojas was carried off bleeding from a cut on his forehead after a flare fired from the crowd fell near him in the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on September 3.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1989

By Thomas S. Person, Astrologer. Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a difficult day until late in the evening when a hidden talent that you have will find an outlet in expression making a positive impression on those surrounding you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You will now be able to meet some dramatic stranger who will become your friends. Handle business in by usual style.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) This is the day to repay social obligations to couple in your home. Be as much as possible with mate in activities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Being very socially active today will bring you much pleasure. Try to get your family to go on a trip with you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) By being complimentary you can make a good friend of a successful person. Join with people from distance for fun.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can add to your assets by dealing with a successful person. Use all your energy to improve conditions at your home.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) An expanded new view of your home will make conditions easier there. A couple will give you good advice in business.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A friendly couple will aid you in the selection of your financial affairs.

With your mate you can have pleasant time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Invite your friends into your home for a pleasant time. Accept the invitation of friends with your mate today.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Accept invitations from several people but don't allow yourself to be fenced in by social obligations.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't get upset because of entertaining at home. You should receive wonderful closeness of your attachment now.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Taking chances with money now could lead to considerable problems. Do entertaining at home in a different manner.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A delayed trip with a friend should be accepted with peace. Take an interesting person home to meet your mate.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will understand easily the intricacies of modern equipment, machines and methods. Their education should be slanted along innovative lines and it is more than likely that this individual will create or invent several items that will be useful to mankind and profitable as well.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦KQJ ♠AKQJ4 ♣93 ♠KQ2
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 4 ♦ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—If you moved at all, there is a gap in your knowledge of basic bidding. North's jump to four hearts is a preemptive action and as such it denies two aces. Even five hearts could be too high. Pass.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦A7632 ♠AKJ92 ♣K7 ♠6
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

A.—When you have two four-card suits, it is usually correct to bid the cheaper one first in response to partner's opening. With two five-card suits, however, always respond in the higher ranking regardless of the quality of the suits. Bid one spade.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦AQJ72 ♠3 ♣AK3 ♠KQ2
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 3 NT Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner's response shows a balanced hand of 16-18 points and a 4-3-3-3 distribution. Therefore, we would give up all thoughts of a grand slam and be satisfied with a value bid to six no trump.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦Q432 ♠6 ♣AQ163 ♠J62
Partner opens the bidding with one heart what do you respond?

A.—Don't count your singleton heart as an asset in selecting your response; as a singleton in partner's suit is a flaw until a fit has been located. Since you do not have the values for a two-over-one response, your only option is to bid one spade.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦AQJ72 ♠3 ♣AK3 ♠KQ2
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 2 ♦ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—Your hand has improved vastly. Since there is a distinct possibility of slam, you should plan to show your strength and distribution. Start with the "high reverse" of three clubs, intending to support diamonds next.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

McEnroe, Lendl reach Masters semifinal

By Bill Berkrot
Reuter

NEW YORK — John McEnroe needed three sets and nearly three hours to subdue world number one Ivan Lendl breezed past eighth-ranked American Michael Chang on Thursday and claim the fourth semifinal spot at the \$3.1 million Masters tennis tournament.

McEnroe, a three-time Masters champion, held on after squandering a 5-1 third-set lead to defeat the 17-year-old French Open champion 6-2, 5-7, 6-4.

"It was a hard-fought match," McEnroe said. "In those situations mental play comes into being. Guys can lose confidence

and have concentration lapses and he's smart enough to take advantage of that."

Earlier on Thursday, world number one Ivan Lendl breezed past eighth-ranked American Michael Chang on Thursday and claim the fourth semifinal spot at the \$3.1 million Masters tennis tournament.

Defending champion Boris Becker of West Germany and third-ranked Swede Stefan Edberg qualified for Saturday's semifinals with victories on Wednesday.

McEnroe struggled with his serve for the second consecutive night, but managed to fight off 10 break points before the fifth-

ranked Chang converted one to lead 3-1 in the second set.

Chang stayed in the match throughout with blazing passing shots and brilliant returns of serve.

But in the end he squandered too many opportunities, converting just three of 20 break points.

The speedy Chang, who had never taken a set from McEnroe, came up with his second break while leading 6-5 to avoid a tie-break and force a third set.

McEnroe, 30, then seized momentum by jumping out to a 4-0 lead and appeared well on his way to victory.

But Chang, who seems to be making a career of gutsy come-from-behind wins, fought off three break points that would have put him 5-0 down.

From 5-1 Chang took three straight games to pull within one and suddenly the 14,000-strong Madison Square Garden crowd began to realize that the former world number one might actually lose.

Chang had four more break points in the dramatic 10th game, but each time McEnroe found a way to keep the game alive and on his second match point delivered a dazzling forehand cross court volley for the victory.

"I always look forward to playing John," Chang said. "I almost had him today but almost isn't good enough."

Lendl, a five-time Masters champion with 10 1989 titles to his credit, was fortunate to avoid the drama that McEnroe faced.

The Czechoslovak delivered 10 aces and his serve was simply too effective for Krickstein, who managed one break point against Lendl in each set and failed to convert either.

The Australian Open champion, who has now reached 16 semifinals in 17 tournaments this year, broke Krickstein three times in the first set and needed just one break to wrap up the

second.

"He seems to be getting better. It's kind of frustrating," said Krickstein. "Hopefully he'll win Wimbledon and retire."

Friday's schedule appeared to promise some of the best tennis of the week with a rematch of the Becker-Edberg Wimbledon final and a showdown of old rivals Lendl and McEnroe. With the final four decided, however, only the semifinal matchups and \$30,000 for a Round-Robin win will be on the line on Friday.

The winner of the Lendl-McEnroe match will face the loser of Becker-Edberg in Saturday's semifinals.

Manchester City faces Liverpool today

LONDON (R) — Struggling Manchester City embark on one of their most critical matches for years on Saturday when they face English soccer league leaders Liverpool at home.

City, promoted last season, will be looking for a sharp turn in fortune after a disastrous November which has not brought a single win.

They have sacked manager Mel Machin, been knocked out of two cup competitions and sunk to the bottom of the league.

City Chairman Peter Swales said Friday the club was unlikely to appoint a replacement by the weekend for Machin, dismissed after two years in charge.

Possible candidates include Joe Royle, manager of second division Oldham and a former City

player or Howard Kendall, former Everton and Athletic Bilbao chief.

The Manchester side, led by caretaker bosses Tony Book and John Deegan, will be without suspended England under-21 international Andy Hinchcliffe.

His place at left back will be filled by 19-year-old Irishman Gerry Taggart, who impressed in

his first senior game of the season Wednesday in a minor cup competition against Nottingham Forest.

City hope to have leading scorer Clive Allen back after he missed the Forest game with a leg injury.

On Saturday seventh-placed Forest go to Aston Villa. The latter, level on points with Liverpool, Arsenal, and Chelsea, will

be pushing to take clear top spot for the first time since they won the championship in 1981.

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DUTY FREE CAR FOR SALE

The Australian Embassy on behalf of the University of Sydney is selling a duty free 1984 model Isuzu Trooper 4WD.

Offers should be submitted to the Australian Embassy in sealed envelopes before 1200 hours on Wednesday 6 December 1989.

Vehicle may be inspected at the Australian Embassy in Jabal Amman.

On the occasion of H.M. King Hussein's birthday
&
Under the patronage of H.M. Queen Noor
The Management of Hotel Jordan Inter. Continental

is holding a charity fashion show for children & ladies presented by Jordanian fashion designers and music performed by students of the National Music Conservatory of Noor Al Hussein Foundation on Wednesday 6th, December 1989 at 4.30 p.m. at Al Mukhtar ballroom at Hotel Jordan Inter. Continental.

Funds raised will be contributed to Noor Al Hussein Foundation

Price JD 10
Tickets are available at Hotel Jordan Inter. Continental.

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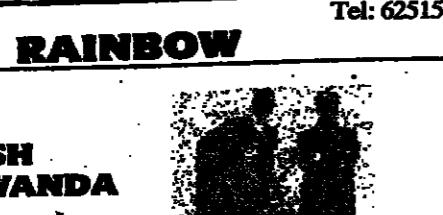
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7 DAYS A WEEK

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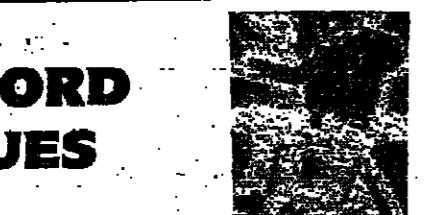
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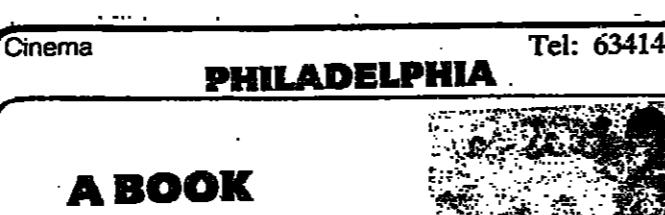
CONCORD



Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

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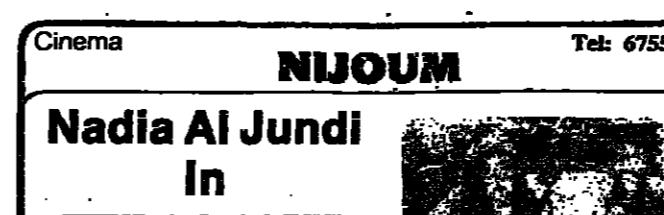
PHILADELPHIA



Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema

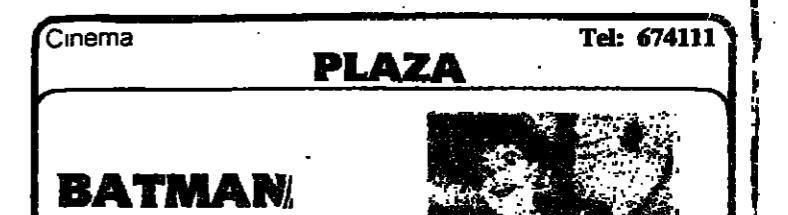
NIJOUN



Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema

PLAZA



Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

World News

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1989

Rebels cease fire for American evacuation from San Salvador

SAN SALVADOR (R) — With left-wing insurgents holding their fire, U.S. citizens began leaving embattled San Salvador Thursday in the first mass evacuation of Americans in 10 years of civil war.

Shortly before 10 a.m. (1600 GMT), three rickety public buses packed with around 100 Americans pulled away from the fortress-like U.S. embassy on their way to the airport and safety in the United States.

The Americans' departure was widely seen by Salvadoreans and non-U.S. diplomats as a major propaganda victory for the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) and a blow to the credibility of the U.S.-backed government of right-wing President Alfredo Cristiani.

Since the guerrillas launched their biggest offensive of the war on Nov. 11, the Cristiani administration has repeatedly announced it had broken the backbone of the rebels and reasserted control in the capital.

But after a lull of several days, the guerrillas Wednesday slipped back into the most affluent districts of El Salvador's capital, engaged government troops in fierce combat, and prompted the embassy to arrange for the departure of dependents.

More than 200 U.S. citizens — wives and spouses of embassy personnel and U.S. contract em-

ployees — were scheduled to leave aboard a chartered jet for Washington.

In contrast to statements from embassy officials that the departure was voluntary, many of those affected appeared to have been told to leave.

"The embassy called us and said we have to go... We were ordered to report to the embassy with one overnight bag," one man told Reuters. He identified himself as a contract worker linked to the embassy but declined to give his name.

U.S. embassy officials declined to term the departure of Americans dependents an "evacuation." Spokesman Barry Jacobs said Wednesday night that "we are trying to lower our profile... it's not an evacuation."

Between 50 and 70 Americans spent the night camped out at the embassy, sleeping on the floor and in office chairs.

Wednesday's resurgence of combat infuriated some of the wealthy Salvadoreans — almost without exception supporters of the right-wing government — who thought the army should have been capable of preventing the guerrillas from returning.

"I deplore that the armed

forces were so slow in reacting," said Manuel Vides, the owner of a luxurious villa, one of the few homes in the area that had not been abandoned by mid-morning Thursday.

"The army did too little too late," he said. "They (soldiers) told me the army sent some 2,000 men but I think there were no more than 200."

A Soviet spokesman denied Thursday that Moscow or its Latin American allies Cuba and Nicaragua were supplying arms to rebels in El Salvador.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said differing U.S. and Soviet views on the matter should be discussed at this weekend's superpower summit off Malta.

He told reporters that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who is visiting Italy, had referred to Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti Moscow's denial that it supplied arms to the rebels now waging a big offensive against the government in El Salvador.

"We are not sending arms there. We understand that Nicaragua and Cuba are not sending arms," Gerasimov said.

Told by a reporter that Washington disagreed, he replied: "This is a discrepancy in information. It can be discussed at Malta... This is a very legitimate subject for Malta."

"I deplore that the armed

Bush vetoes bill on Chinese students' visas

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush has announced he was vetoing a bill to allow Chinese students to remain in the United States after their visas expire, calling it unnecessary and an infringement on his presidential authority.

Bush said in a statement that the measure was unneeded in light of administrative steps he had taken to accomplish the same ends — including new measures taken this year.

The president said he was directing the attorney general "to take the steps necessary to extend administratively to all Chinese students in the United States the same benefits" that were in the rejected bill.

However, a congressional sponsor of the legislation, Democratic Congressman Bruce A. Morrison, accused Bush of yielding to pressure from the Peking government, which had strongly opposed the measure.

"I'm shocked that the pres-

ident would kowtow in this way to the demands of the Chinese Communist government, especially when that government was threatening Chinese students here in the United States and telling them that the United States was not going to protect them," said Morrison, chairman of a House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration.

Democratic Senator Edward M. Kennedy also said in a statement that he opposed the veto and hoped the Congress would override it, which requires a two-thirds vote.

"The president should have stood up for the courageous Chinese students, instead of bowing to the cruel Chinese regime," Kennedy said.

Bush said he was rejecting the legislation with a "pocket" veto, a procedural device available when Congress is in recess that has the same impact as a regular veto.

China jails 11 Tibetan monks

PEKING (R) — China has jailed 11 Tibetan monks for terms of up to 19 years for the "counter-revolutionary" crime of campaigning for Tibetan independence, official reports said Friday.

Peking also renewed its attacks on the Nobel Peace Prize Committee for giving its prestigious award to Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, in October.

Norway's king, prime minister and cabinet are due to attend the prize-giving ceremony in Oslo on Dec. 10.

Diplomats expect China to step up its denunciations of the Nobel committee and to intimidate Tibetans with shows of force to prevent further pro-independence demonstrations and public celebrations of the award.

Lhasa, the regional capital, has been under martial law since March when two years of sporadic anti-Chinese protests erupted into a full-scale confrontation with security forces.

Hundreds of people, many of them Buddhist monks and nuns, have been arrested in the subsequent crackdown in the Himalayan region.

Chinese newspapers quoted the official New China News Agency as reporting from Lhasa that 11 monks were sentenced at a mass public meeting Thursday, the latest account of trials in the remote region.

Two monks, identified as Awang Pingsheng and Awang Weisi, were accused of founding a "counter-revolutionary clique" called "Tibetan Independence," which was joined by eight more monks.

The monks, all from Lhasa's largest monastery of Drepung, were accused of "collecting intelligence according to foreign demand and printing and distributing reactionary leaflets."

No details of their activities were given. They were jailed for terms ranging from five to 19 years. Awang Pingsheng was named as the leader, but the reports did not specify whether he received the longest sentence.

Former S. African sergeant held for murders

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — A former police sergeant has been arrested in connection with the assassinations of two prominent white activists, one in South Africa and one in Namibia, police headquarters said.

Congressional sponsors of the measure, however, said that Bush's gesture did not go far enough and that many of the 40,000 Chinese students now studying in the United States had not taken advantage of it.

In most cases, visas for visiting foreign students are issued for two years. The bill Bush vetoed would extend the Chinese students' visas for four more years and then give them a chance at applying for permanent residency.

Bush said he was rejecting the legislation with a "pocket" veto, a procedural device available when Congress is in recess that has the same impact as a regular veto.

"It is believed (police) are looking at the possible existence of a private assassination squad with strong right-wing links," said a source.

Singh also faces opposition from within the Janata Dal especially from veteran Socialist Chandra Shekhar.

As soon as Singh's election was declared, Chandra Shekhar began protesting.

"Twenty minutes before the election, it was understood that V.P. Singh would propose Devi Lal and I would second him. What happened in between, I don't know," he told reporters.

Singh did propose Devi Lal, the veteran peasant leader whom sides say would have loved the job, and Chandra Shekhar seconded the nomination.

Then Devi Lal, saying he only wanted to be the party's "elder uncle," proposed V.P. Singh.

The Janata Dal and National Front election meetings had been postponed twice following frantic behind the scenes jostling for the leadership, raising memories of 1979.

The arrest coincides with a government investigation into allegations by former policemen that police death squads, acting on orders from superiors, killed numerous dissident.

State-run television said that since the suspect's detention several weeks ago, police investigators had come to believe there may be a clandestine group operating in South Africa which planned political assassinations.

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Stop, among the handful of old Stalinist leaders to follow Honecker into forced retirement this month, maintained a lavish weekend retreat in wooded countryside outside Waren. It has been sealed off by state investiga-

tions since he left office.

The prosecutor general and the Volkskammer, or parliament, are investigating numerous suspected cases of corruption, excessive privileges and abuse of power by former old guard Communists.

New reformist Prime Minister Hans Modrow and Communist Party chief Krenz have pledged that anyone found guilty will be punished regardless of their prior position. They also vowed to abolish special privileges.

Krenz told national television his conscience was clear and he had never had a hunting lodge, estate nor other weekend hideaway.

The court action was filed

jointly by New Forum, East Germany's biggest democratic reform group with more than 200,000 members, and the chairman of the regional council in the town of Waren, north of Berlin.

Honecker, replaced by reform-minded Egon Krenz last month after an explosion of demonstrations for democratic change, already faces party disciplinary hearings for alleged misuse and abuse of official privileges.

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The COP accuses Bhutto of trying to divide it with offers of cabinet posts and other favours to its members. It decided Monday to bring a second no-confidence motion, but did not say when.

The 36-year-old prime minister, expecting her second child early next year, described the first parliamentary challenge as an attack on Pakistan's young democracy. She dismissed the danger of another attempt, saying she has voter support.

"Such exercises are futile as people are the real fountainhead of power," Bhutto told a crowd Thursday in Lahore, capital of Punjab province.

Bhutto's attempt to broaden

Singh to be new Indian premier

NEW DELHI (R) — Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the man who once said he would be a disaster in the job, became the almost certain candidate to succeed Rajiv Gandhi as Indian prime minister Friday.

The army did too little too late," he said. "They (soldiers) told me the army sent some 2,000 men but I think there were no more than 200."

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Thursday that Moscow or its Latin American allies Cuba and Nicaragua were supplying arms to rebels in El Salvador.

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"I deplore that the armed

Big search launched for killers of German banker

BAD HÖMBURG, West Germany (AP) — Authorities have offered one of the largest rewards in West German history for the capture of leftist terrorists suspected in the bombing death of the country's leading financier.

Chief State Prosecutor Kurt Rehmann said authorities would review the protection of the country's leading officials following the killing of Deutsche Bank chief Alfred Herrhausen.

Herrhausen, 59, headed the country's largest bank and had been one of the most influential managers in West Germany and Europe.

The leftist Red Army Faction (RAF) terrorist group claimed responsibility for the bomb attack that ripped apart Herrhausen's armoured Mercedes as he was being driven to work in nearby Frankfurt earlier Thursday.

Singh was elected unanimously as leader of his Janata Dal Party, clearing the last hurdle to the formation of only the country's second non-Congress Party government in 42 years of independence.

Gandhi stepped aside Wednesday, saying his Congress Party would not seek a coalition to stay in power after elections produced a hung parliament.

Two parties on the extremes of India's political spectrum promised to support from outside a minority government of the centrist National Front alliance in which Janata Dal is overwhelmingly dominant.

Singh was formally elected head of the National Front shortly after becoming Janata Dal leader.

Janata Dal officials said Singh's vocal reluctance to become leader was mainly a tactic to ensure other leaders of India's usually fractious opposition parties would support him and avoid the divisive experiences of 1979.

The last time the opposition ousted Congress, in 1977, it collapsed in only two years amid bickering and back-stabbing.

There was no guarantee that a minority National Front government commanding only 144 seats would last.

The two parties promising support, the rightwing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and two Communist parties on the left, detect each other.

The BJP, the great election surprise with 88 seats in the 545-member parliament, insists it will fight for its beliefs, which include stripping away constitutional privileges for India's 100 million Muslim minority.

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The court action was filed

COLUMN 10

Naked intruder stuck in chimney

WARWICK, Rhode Island (AP) — A naked man pulled from the warwick public library's chimney wasn't Santa Claus and he wasn't spreading holiday cheer, police say. John E. Sears, 21, was charged Wednesday with breaking and entering after spending the night wedged in the chimney just inches away from a hot radiator.

Authorities were looking for two men seen leaving the scene. A car believed to have been used in the escape was found abandoned in a Franklin suburb late Thursday.

Rehmann said a security review would be launched in the wake of the attack, which employed a sophisticated light-beam device never used by West German man.

His spokesman, Hans-Juergen Foerster, said the bomb was set to careen off a bicycle placed on the street, and the blast was triggered by the car passing through a beam of light.

The spokesman pointed out that leftist terrorists for years had accused Deutsche Bank of "repression" and of fueling the "military-industrial" complex with its worldwide investments.

For a long time, the Deutsche Bank and Herrhausen in particular have been targeted by the Red Army Faction," Foerster said.

Herrhausen had been a close friend and adviser to Chancellor Helmut Kohl, often accompanying the chancellor on major foreign trips.

Kohl, his eyes filled with tears and his voice breaking, condemned the "cowardly and brutal murder."

The tall, striking bank chief had been leading the Deutsche Bank on